

McMath PAC: Minutes September 29, 2020 (Zoom meeting)

Parents/Guardians: Megan R, Kristy M, Heidi M, Zhihong M, Helmut D, Larissa R, Cheyna C, Brenna, Junko M, Arlene M, Jocelyn B, Jacqueline C, Karen L, Rebecca J, Nadine S, Amen B, Elisa M, Meleny H, Jasmin P, Lesia W, Louise C, Mary I, Ivy G, Andy W, Amy C, Carol C, Jessie F, Nikki P

McMath Administration: Jane M, Adrienne G, Tinh N

PAC Exec: Sam H, Dionne M, Jon L

Start: 7:01pm

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Kristy M, Meg R

2. Adoption of the Minutes: Helmut D, Meg R

3. PAC Executive Update (Samantha H):

- PAC Exec Introductions: Samantha Harrison (Chair), Dionne McFie (Co-Chair), Jon Lee (Treasurer) – all 3 have sons in Grade 10
- The Secretary position is open and needs to be filled, two people can fill the position

4. Treasurer's Report (Jon L):

- Two accounts: General Account (general expenses) and Gaming Account (government grant, clubs)
- General Account = \$1,139.15
- Gaming Account = \$9,512.39. There was ~\$6K allocated last year that was not spent.
- Expecting to receive notification of this school year's grant next week

5. Richmond District Parents Association (RDPA) (Dionne M):

- Dionne McFie is the chair for the Richmond District Parent Association (<http://dpac.sd38.bc.ca/>)
- Works together with school trustees
- Have not had the first meeting, which will be next Tuesday October 6
- The McMath representative is Jon Lee
- Every school gets one vote
- RDPA position nominations – execs or members-at-large) are currently being accepted
- There are 5 committees
- Engagement at the BC PAC level
- There is a large role that the RDPA

6. Principal's Report

- **Welcome and Startup (Ms McFadyen)**
 - 1,206 students with very little students electing for virtual school

- Less than 20 in grade 8 who are with the RDS, less than 20 in grade 9 – transitional program, and hope they return soon
- 100 teachers (25 support staff)
- Some teachers are on leave, and some who have retired, some temp and some who have returned after being away for a while
- Still have 4 staff who have been here since McMath opened
- Q: \$28 student fee? A: Usually allocated to various items, unsure whether these will occur, and are in a holding amount at this time while seeing what other high schools will be charging.
- Q: Will lockers be available? A: No.
- Have enough bike racks
- **Health and Safety Procedures (Ms Goulas)**
 - Daily Cleaning
 1. increased custodians cleaning high touch areas, washrooms, etc
 2. there is some rotation of classrooms if not cleaned, or students are asked to help clean if a classroom was not cleaned
 3. 3.5 evening custodians who clean all of the rooms every day
 4. Custodians have all received instructions on cleaning
 5. Administration has received instructions also on cleaning
 - Daily Health Checks – every attendee coming to the school is asked these questions:
 1. Do you have any of the following new key symptoms of illness?
 2. Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?
 3. Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?
 - Entering and Existing School – signage, designated entrances, two staff at the entrances who provide the sanitizer, stairs are one way, scheduled arrival and departure times
 - Physical Distancing – signs and encouragement (pool noodle) for how far apart, physical distancing is not required within their learning cohort, but physical contact should be avoided
 - Non Medical Masks – required to wear these in high traffic areas, is strongly encouraged in their classrooms, no more eating in hallways, all students have been given two re-useable face masks
 - Blue medical forms as well as Yellow personal information and consent forms have been sent home with students
 - Q: What happens if there is a positive test? A: Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will check their contacts and may advise contacts that they need to isolate, may say that there is passing contact and you are monitored – it is VCH’s determination and decision. If your child is asked to isolate for 2 weeks or is sick and is staying at home, the teacher have a mechanism to keep in contact. If VCH determines that a whole class needs to be contacted, they will advise the school. VCH determines close contact to be more than 15 minutes within 2 meters throughout the day.
- **Cohorts (Ms McFadyen)**

- Grade 8 and 9 students are broken in to groups/cohorts, of where they can gather and which are their teachers/classrooms
- Grade 8 English: Red = Upper B and Upper Rotunda
- Grade 8 French: Blue = Lower B and Library
- Grade 9 English: Purple = Upper C
- Grade 9 English: Gold = Lower C
- Grade 9 French: Green = Rotunda
- Seeing someone in another cohort must be outside
- If they go outside, they should not leave the property
- If they live close-by and their parents give permission, they can go home for lunch but come straight back
- Eat their lunches in the classroom at 11:40am for the first 15 minutes, those who have gym are walked to a classroom, the teachers are not in the classroom at lunch but the school administrators check the hallway and dismiss each class from lunch
- Juniors (grade 8/9) start at 9:30am, and Seniors (grade 10/11/12) come in at 9:15am and finish at 11:40am to go home
- **Lunch (Ms McFadyen)**
 - Some Seniors with last name with L or M, may be in the morning and afternoon, but this is less than 10, eating lunch in the Rotunda, have their own tables and finish their lunch before the Juniors join in the Rotunda
 - Cafeteria is open and is offering limited packaged items, minimal usage so far, and unsure if this will be financially viable to stay open as this is operated by a private company
 - Classrooms are cleaned over lunch
- **Classes – the Quarter System (Ms McFadyen)**
 - 2 classes at a time, 8 in total through the school year
 - Quarter 1 = Sep 14 to Nov 18
 - Quarter 2 = Nov 19 to Feb 3
 - Quarter 3 = Feb 4 to Apr 23
 - Quarter 4 = Apr 26 to Jun 28
 - Moved to quarter system to minimize contact, heard the comments in the spring how challenging it was for students to manage 8 classes, reduces complexity for students and teachers
 - Some challenges for the support
- **Assessment and Reporting (Ms McFadyen)**
 - PRIDE = Positive attitude, Respect, Integrity, Diversity, Effort
 - Quarter 1: October 9 mid-term reports will be published in MyEd, Parent-Teacher conferences TBD, November 25 Final Quarter Reports will be published in MyEd
 - Grade 8 and 9's will be letter grades
- **Clubs and Sports (Ms McFadyen)**
 - More details are coming out about these, and will be very careful of what is done and how it is done

- Extracurricular activities including sports, arts or special interest clubs can occur if physical distancing can be practiced in line with the guidance for within- and outside-of-cohort interactions
- Inter-school events should not occur at this time
- Some activities such as bake sales can not occur at this time
- Student council will be starting up
- **Communications**
 - Will communicate via the website
 - Week At A Glance (WAAG) emails out on Fridays
 - IB is only offered at Richmond High, AP courses are offered based on the demand

7. School Administration pre-submitted Q&A

- I have heard that the French immersion math class is not being taught in French due to lack of qualified teacher. How are we addressing this issue?
 - Math is not taught in French, it is only taught in English.
- Graduation celebrations?
 - Grad activities will be a challenge and done differently with some of the traditional activities (~230 students)
- Will the numeracy and literacy exams go ahead this year? My son has not written the numeracy exam and is in grade 12
 - Yes – Ms McFadyen, Ms Goulas and Mr Ngo will be meeting to review how this can be done
 - Grad capstone is for senior students, career life connections is 4 credits and students are tasked for exploring a career, contacting someone ideally in that area. In the past, a science fair presentation may have been done.
 - School admin prefers they write the test in the year they are supposed to
 - All grade 10's write the numeracy exam
- Will cross country or Track and Field take place this year? (as they are outside and individual sports)
 - Richmond Secondary School Athletics Association (RSSAA) is developing a framework/guidelines to assist in a safe start-up of limited activities
- As this school year is running in semesters and each course lasts for only 10 weeks in one semester, it is hard, nevertheless critical, for parents to keep tracking how the student is doing in class. I would like to know, for example, will the parents get formal feedback (it can be brief) from the teachers in the middle of the semester (e.g., after 5 weeks of study in one particular course)?
 - Mid-term reports will be posted on MyEd, Parent-teacher is TBD
- Are there enough bike racks? Have had feedback that they are all full each morning.
 - Yes – they are crowded but there is space (picture shown from this morning)
- Would it possible to put a portable sink in the Drama room?
 - The drama room has a sink and an entire bathroom.

- Do you expect any clubs or teams to take place this year if proper safety protocols can be in place?
 - Yes – discussions on clubs have started, RSSAA is developing a framework/guideline for sports teams
- Opening and closing windows and doors affects the balancing of a buildings HVAC system. With outdoor smoke, windows and doors have opened, closed and re-opened again. I have heard several complaints that interior classrooms are too hot, students sit shoulder to shoulder with others and some kids wear masks and some don't. Are facility maintenance HVAC technicians adjusting systems during weather/condition changes? Are the systems being rebalanced to accommodate these types of frequent changes especially for interior classrooms? What is being done to ensure optimum air circulates in all classes given kids are not seated to social distance in all classrooms?
 - Students in grade 8 and 9 are not required to social distance due to being in cohorts
 - Senior students are limited to 15 per classroom
 - Temperature – all rooms have monitors and will adjust, if the windows/doors are opening then it will impact the temperature and the sensors should adjust to that
 - If there issues, a work order is put in to address that
 - Aware that the computer room has had some comments
 - Air circulation – believe it to be decent, not aware of any plans to change the HVAC systems, the district has increased from 1 to 2 custodians

8. 3 R's:

- Reassure – parents that they are following procedures, don't have all the answers
- Routine – stick to this and be the same every day, there is a class signout when students leave
- Regulate – this can be overwhelming, where to go for help, who to ask for questions, healthy habits, counselors are here

Next PAC Meeting is October 27 at 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm